

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Howard County

February 2015 Edition

Welcome!

While you heat things up to keep warm during our winter months, take advantage of some great events, programs and ways to get and stay involved throughout the year. For more up-to-the-minute information, "[Like](#)" [me](#) on Facebook or "[Follow](#)" [me](#) on Twitter (@CalvinBallTeam). You may also wish to register for County updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Have questions, comments, concerns or ideas on how we can be doing better to serve Howard County? I invite you to call my office at 410-313-2001 or email me at cbball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already registered to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Inside this issue:

Preschool/Child Care Fair	1
Kindergarten Registration	2
Leadership U Settlement	2
Downpayment Loan Program	2
Starlicious Talent Show	3
BSAP Math Academy	3
Black History Expo	3
Evening in the Stacks	4
Civility in Sports Poster Contest	4
Taste of Long Reach	4
Chili Cook-Off	4

Preschool/Child Care Information Fair!



Howard County's Department of Citizen Services will host its annual Preschool/Child Care Information Fair, "Children on Board", on Saturday, January 31 1-4pm at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. Parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel will be afforded a "one stop shop" for information on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as the opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Attendees will also have the option to attend FREE informational sessions on "How to Choose an Early Childhood Program" offered each hour by the Parents As Teachers' Program.

Admission is FREE; however, those coming are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank. For more information, call 410-313-1940, email children@howardcountymd.gov or go [online](#).

Princeton Prize in Race Relations!



Calling all HS students... The Princeton Prize in Race Relations wants you! They are currently seeking students to recognize, support and encourage who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the cause of positive race relations. If you are a HS student involved in an activity that is helping to improve race relations in your school community, apply today either [online](#) or by mail. The deadline is **Saturday, January 31, 2015** to be eligible for prizes, including cash rewards up to \$1,000 for particularly noteworthy work. Call 1-800-742-1036 with any questions.

Howard County Restaurant Weeks

Celebrate culinary culture in Howard County during our annual Restaurant Weeks! Through **February 2, 2015**, residents can visit local restaurants and sample house specialties. For details on participating locations, select menus and much more, go [online](#).

G/T Parent Academy on Building Resiliency!

All interested parents are invited to attend the HCPSS G/T Parent Academy, Building Resiliency in Advanced-Level learners at **Atholton High School, 6520 Freetown Road** in Columbia on **Thursday, February 5, 2015 7-8:30pm**. Attaining success requires resiliency in order to overcome challenges along the way. Yet many advanced learners expect to get the right answer on their first attempt and give up before trying if faced with truly challenging situations. This session provides parents with strategies to support high potential youth as they engage in the struggles that lead to meaningful success! For more details, email hcpssgtac@gmail.com or call 410-313-6800.

Kindergarten Registration!

Every child who is 5 years old by **September 1, 2015** must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an approved waiver. All HCPSS elementary schools provide full-day kindergarten programs. Take advantage of an upcoming 2015 Road to Kindergarten session all of which are offered 6:30-7:30pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at Marriotts Ridge High School

Monday, February 9, 2015 at Hammond Middle School

Child care is available at each session for children ages 2 and older. Please allow at least 15 minutes extra for child care sign-in. Have questions? Go [online](#) or call the Office of Early Childhood Programs at **410-313-5693**.

Federal Energy Assistance

U.S. Senators Mikulski & Cardin announced Maryland will receive an additional \$6.2M in federal energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help families with modest incomes stay warm this winter. For details, visit www.liheap.org/sstates/md

Medicare 101 & 102

The Howard County Office on Aging's State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) will be sponsoring two seminars to educate participants on Medicare Parts A, B, C, D and Supplemental Policies (Medigap Plans).

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 10-11:30am – Medicare 101: What You Can Expect from Medicare. Participants will learn about how Medicare Parts A (Hospital), B (Medical) and D (Prescription Drug) work, the benefits and coverage information.

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 10-11:30am – Medicare 102: Why Medicare Isn't Enough. Participants will learn about Medicare Part C/Health Plans and how Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap Plans) can help cover out of pocket expenses.

Both events will be held at the Ellicott City Senior Center, 9401 Frederick Rd in Ellicott City. For more information, call **Barbara Albert** at **410-313-7391**.

Leadership U – Accepting Applications for Class of 2015!



Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private school, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.

Those interested are invited to attend a FREE information session to learn more: **Monday, February 9** (Miller Library); and **Tuesday, February 24** (Central Library). All sessions are 7-8pm. Application deadline is **March 12, 2015**. For more details, go [online](#).

Veterans & Military Families Commission Wants You!

The Veterans & Military Families Commission is now seeking individuals to serve! Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in veteran and military family affairs and be able to attend the Commission's meetings, held monthly from 7-8:30pm at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia.

Applicants are asked to send a one-page resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive, Attn: David Lee, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The deadline to apply is Friday, **February 13, 2015**.

Presidents' Day at Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse!



On this holiday, **Monday, February 16th 10am-12pm** at **Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse**, celebrate the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln by learning about these great leaders, their families and how they influenced our nation. Children, grades K-5 will partake in stories, games and hands-on activities in this one-room schoolhouse build in the 1880s located at 6109 Rockburn Branch Park Rd in Elkridge. For details, contact Caitlin Chamberlain at **410-313-0420**.

Settlement Downpayment Loan Program!

Looking to buy a home or relocate in Howard County? Howard County Housing has invested \$400,000 to the Department's Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP) that will offer homebuyers a deferred second mortgage loan, to be used by those preapproved for settlement costs and downpayments. Buyers must agree to occupy the home as their primary residence. Interest rates are set at 2 percent below the first mortgage interest rate and repayment of the loans is deferred until resale, refinance or default.

Additional incentives such as loan forgiveness are available under the Workforce Initiative Loan product for homeowners who work in Howard County. Funds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Homebuyers interested in applying for the program should contact a participating first mortgage lender to begin the application process. A list of approved lenders can be found on Housing's SDLP [website](#), call **410-313-6318** or email lphillips@howardcountymd.gov.

3rd Annual Starlicious Talent Show!

The best young talents in Howard County will take the stage and be showcased at Columbia Association's (CA) [3rd annual Starlicious Talent Show!](#) Singers dancers, musicians and other performers between the ages of 7 and 13 will perform on **Friday, February 6th 6-9pm**. It will be a night with and for the stars with several special features such as a halftime show, "Hollywood swag bag" giveaways, door prizes, a Fan Club merchandise booth, a VIP booth, a red carpet photo booth and food and beverages available for purchase. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$5/kids or \$25/family of four.



ACA Open Enrollment – Last Call!

Residents who qualify for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have until **February 15, 2015** to apply or re-enroll. Go [online](#) to create an account or call Maryland's Connection's Consumer Support Center at **1-855-642-8572**.

Know your options. Call **410-313-7392** or email ship@howardcountymd.gov to register or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/SHIP for a complete schedule of enrollment events.

Bay Day at Robinson Nature Center!

Discover all there is to know about the Chesapeake Bay and its connection to Howard County, by joining the Roberson Nature Center for a day packed full of Bay-themed activities and food. Held on **Sunday, February 22, 2015 1-4pm**, residents will discover more about the "living fossil" that roams the Chesapeake Bay, dissect an oyster, feast on food from the Bay and meet aquatic animals in the Nature Center's touch tank. This special event has something for everyone! No registration is necessary; however, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact **Meagan Leatherbury** at **410-313-0405** or mleatherbury@howardcountymd.gov.

BSAP Math Academy – Spring Session Registration!

The BSAP-Saturday Math Academy offers mentoring, tutoring and enrichment in mathematics on Saturday mornings by HCPSS certified teachers. Students in grades 3-12 are invited to enroll in the upcoming Spring 2014 session. On-site registration is on **Saturday, February 7, 2015 9-11am** at Oakland Mills High School Cafeteria, 9410 Kilimanjaro Road in Columbia.

Spring 2015 Session Dates: **February 28, March 7, 14, 21 and April 11, 18, 25**. Open to all students, all levels. Parents, please bring a copy of your child's February 3rd Report Card to ensure quick and accurate placement! If applicable, bring IEP forms and/or letter that document receiving free or reduced meals. Registration is not complete until all documents are received. Registration fee is \$45 (non-refundable). If you have questions, contact **Jackie Jenkins** at **410-313-1598** or email jacquelyne_jenkins@hcpss.org.

Black History Expo 2015!

The National Pan-Hellenic Council of Howard County, Maryland in partnership with the Howard County Maryland Branch NAACP and the Howard County Public School System invites the public to attend Black History Expo 2015! The theme is "A Century of Black life, History and Culture and admission is FREE. There will be exhibits, vendors, activities and entertainment throughout the day.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this celebration of Black history and culture on **Saturday, February 28, 2015 12-5pm** at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road** in Columbia. For more details, contact **Muriel Mitchell** at mitchelldst@gmail.com.

Volunteer of the Year Nominees Sought!

Nomination forms are now available for the 2015 "Volunteer of the Year" awards program. This program recognizes individuals (youth & adult), non-profit organizations or governmental agencies, and for-profit organizations or community groups that have demonstrated commitment and dedication to our community.

To qualify, nominees must be either residents of Howard County or do their volunteer work here. In addition, their volunteer efforts should have an impact on an individual or the community; for individual nominations, the nominated service must be performed outside the scope of the nominee's paid employment. Nomination forms are available online. They may be filled out online and submitted via email to voy@howardcountymd.gov, faxed to 410-313-3390 or mailed to: Howard County Volunteer of the Year, Attn: Alexandra Bresani, Office of Public Information, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Deadline to apply is **Friday, February 27, 2015**.

Aging in Place Home Repair Funding!

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>



Evening in the Stacks!

You are cordially invited for a sparkling evening as the Howard County Library System celebrates 75 education! Enjoy live music, an online advance auction and silent auction on site, cocktails and dance neighbors. This event will be held **Saturday, February 28, 2015 7-11pm** at the Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center, 9421 Frederick Rd in Ellicott City. Tickets are \$125 (before January 31), \$140 beginning February 1st.

Cocktail attire and black tie optional. Additional details available [online](#).

Civility in Sports Poster Contest!

Students are invited to design a poster illustrating the recent 2014 Choose Civility Symposium theme, Civility in Sports. Use your imagination, creativity and artistic talent to show others why it's important to be a good sport. Start by asking yourself: What does it mean to be a good sport? Why is it important? How does the way people act during sports events affect you, your family, and your friends? Now design a poster with a message that will encourage others to choose civility in sports!

Groups or individual students in K-12 who live or attend school in Howard County are invited to submit entries. Entries are accepted through **March 1, 2015**. There will be awards for the top winners. For details, call **410-730-0075** or email monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org



Taste of Long Reach!



Please join us for a fun evening of great food and beverages from our area restaurants and caterers during the Taste of Long Reach. This event will be held on **Friday, March 6, 2015 7-11pm** at **The Gathering Place, 6120 Day Long Lane** in Columbia. It's a great evening to mingle with the staff members, other parents and friends in the community. All are welcome but you must be 21 to attend!

Tickets are \$40 in advance/\$50 after **February 27**. Tickets include food tastings, door prize ticket, unlimited non-alcoholic beverage & three drink tickets. Cash Bar for additional beverages. Call **410-313-7117** for details or go [online](#) to purchase tickets.

5th Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Join us on **Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 12:30-2:30pm** for Bridges to Housing Stability's 5th Annual "Hotter than Thou" Chili Cook-off where more than 17 congregations will compete. There is no admission charge and this event will be held at the **Church of the Resurrection, 3175 Paulskirk Drive in Ellicott City, MD**. Each congregation will provide samples of their unique recipe and guests will vote on favorites by placing cash/checks in tip jars.

Bridges to Housing Stability prevents and reduces homelessness in Howard County, offering two programs: Housing Stability Program, an ongoing service-based program focused on "Housing First" model for placement of homeless and at-risk households and Bridges Alliance, a program of affordable housing with a circle of support aimed at preventing homelessness. Proceeds directly benefit all of Bridges' clients. Unable to attend, but want to make a difference? Please consider [donating today](#).



Support the Silas Craft Collegians Program!



The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to our annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously on **Monday, March 9th from 5-8pm** at the Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia. Tickets are \$45/person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to [purchase tickets](#), call the HCC development office at **443-518-1970**.

DT Columbia Arts & Culture Commission Accepting 2015 Grant Applications!

The Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission is accepting 2015 grants applications! Grants are available to non-for-profit arts and cultural organizations that present or produce in Downtown Columbia, are for project support only and are expected to support activities in the fiscal year they're awarded. Online grant applications will remain open until the grantmaking budget for the year has been exhausted and reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Commission's Board of Directors. For more details, email ColumbiaMDarts@gmail.com or go [online](#).

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) are grants up to \$2,000 to assist adults with development disabilities and families with a child with developmental disabilities with purchasing services and/or items to address needs. MD residents who have a developmental disability, their family or authorized representative may apply. Requests can be submitted **January 1-31 and July 1-31** of each year.

For more details or to receive a copy of the application, go [online](#) or contact the LISS agency serving Howard County: Penn Mar Human Services, **410-357-0891; 1-877-282-8202; TTY: 711** or email LISS@penn-mar.org.

Spotlight on Village Events!



Oakland Mills 2015 Upcoming Events:

Channel Your Inner Geezer: Don't Get Mad, Get to Work

Are you looking for a career change, but don't know where to begin? "Channel Your Inner Geezer: Don't Get Mad, Get to Work", a 4 part workshop will get you started. Janet Ruck, Certified Job and Career Transition Coach, will be instructing the workshop for individuals 50 and older. The 4 sessions will be as follows and for the most successful experience, please plan on attending all 4 workshops:

February 4, 2015, 10am to noon – Putting it all together and Moving Forward

All workshops will take place at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place. They are FREE, but registration is required. Please call **410-730-4610** or email events@oaklandmills.org for more information or to register.

Long Reach 2015 Upcoming Events:

Animal Shelter Extravaganza – Friday, February 6th 11am-2pm

Schools are closed, so enjoy the afternoon with family and friends making pet toys for the animals at the Howard County Animal Control & Adoption Center. A Howard County Control Officer will also be on-site with some of the animals available for adoption. For more info, call 410-730-8113.

Family Bingo Night – Friday, February 20th 7:30-9pm

Enjoy a fun night of Bingo with your family. Play a variety of games with many chances to win prizes! Disposable bingo cards are 5/\$1. Free snacks, drinks available for purchase.

Columbia Art Center School's Out Artsy Fun Day

When HC public schools are out, come to the Columbia Art Center for an amazing day of creative fun! Go home with an exciting project every day. Full day, 7:30-5:30pm, \$50/child for grades 1-8. Upcoming dates: **February 6 & 16**. To register call **410-730-0075** or email ColumbiaArtCenter@ColumbiaAssociation.org

My Spanish Academy

My Spanish Academy is offering a fun way to learn Spanish from a native Spanish speaker & experienced teacher. Songs, crafts, dance, music & more! For ages 2-12 – 50 or 75 minute classes available Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm or Tuesday & Thursdays 6:30pm-7:20pm.

8th Annual GreenFest – Vendors Sought!



Howard County will host its 8th annual GreenFest on **Saturday, April 18, 2015 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. This year's theme is "Living with Wildlife" and highlight environmentally conscious products, services, activities and opportunities for community involvement. Vendors and exhibitors with information on green products, green building, native plant sales, wildlife exploration, environmentally-friendly lawn care, energy efficiency, alternative energy, water conservation and reuse and tips for greening your everyday activities are encouraged to apply.

Cost is \$25 (non-profits) \$35 (all other entities). An additional \$10 late fee will be charged for those applying after **Friday, February 27th**. For more information, go online, call **410-313-6433** or email awilcom@howardcountymd.gov.

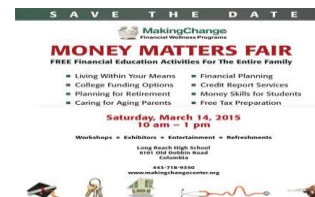
Interlacing From Our Inspirations!

The Meeting House Gallery in Oakland Mills is now featuring the "Interlacing From Our Inspirations" exhibit through **Saturday, March 7, 2015**. It features work by members of The International Center for Artistic Development and was produced in collaboration with the Oakland Mills Community Association. Artists featured are Laura Benson, Camillia A. Blackwell, Jennie S. Campbell, Emily Ceballos, Dorothy Friedman, Luis Peralta, Reggie Smith, Leah Taylor and Mary Jo Tydlacka. It will include oil, watercolor etching and aquatint, oil pastel, ebony wood carving, jewelry, ceramic sculpture, collage, acrylic, pen, ink and wash drawing, graphite drawing, transfer print pastel drawing and collage, photography, and mixed media acrylic.

The [Meeting House Gallery](http://MeetingHouseGallery) is located in **The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, 5885 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia and is open 8am-9pm. The gallery is free and open to all. For more information, call **410-730-4090**.

Money Matters Fair!

MakingChange will host the Money Matters Fair on **Saturday, March 14, 2015**, from 10am-1pm at Long Reach High School. Free activities for the entire family will focus on such issues as living within your means, college funding options, preparing for retirement and caring for aging parents. Activities for children ages 12-18 and their parents will include an interactive financial simulation designed to show how career, education and spending choices impact success. More information is available online.



2015 Women of Tomorrow Awards!

The MD Commission for Women, MD State Department of Education & Friends of the MD Commission for Women are seeking recommendations of outstanding young women from Maryland, grades 7-12 for their 2015 Women of Tomorrow Awards. The purpose is to acknowledge extraordinary young women who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and academic excellence.

All nominations must be received no later than **Friday, March 13, 2015** and are available online. Electronic submissions may be emailed to Judith.vaughan-prather@maryland.gov. For more details, call **301-610-4523**.

Winter Tip: Protect Your Pipes!

Our Bureau of Utilities would like to remind residents to take proactive steps to protect your pipes and plumbing fixtures from cold weather damage.

Helpful tips:

- Any exposed pipes should be wrapped or insulated
- Leave the hot and cold water dripping to reduce probability of pipes freezing
- Seal any air leaks that may let any icy blast reach pipes
- Turn off and drain outside spigots
- If house has crawlspace, close all air vents located in the foundation
- If going on extended vacation, keep enough heat on at home to prevent pipes from freezing
- Always report loss of water to **410-313-4900**



7th Annual WomenFest – Vendors Needed!

Do you offer products and/or services that promote health, wellness, fashion, and beauty and are designed to inspire women to live a more balanced, healthy and fulfilled life? If so, apply for a spot at this year's Department of Citizen Services' WomenFest, a signature wellness event for women on **Saturday, April 25, 2015 10am-3pm** at the Gary Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cookeville. Applications, sponsorship opportunities and full event details are available [online](#) or call 410-313-5957.

2015 Community Sports Hall of Fame – Nominees Sought!

The Community Sports Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or event behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated! In addition, nominees must be either Howard County residents or made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. Forms are available [online](#) or call 410-313-4711. **Deadline is April 15, 2015.**



South American Culture Fest – Vendors Needed!

Columbia Association is seeking South American musicians, bands, exhibitors, performers and food vendors for the upcoming "South American Culture Fest" hosted **Sunday, April 25, 2015 from 1:30-4:30pm** at Howard County's **Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road** in Ellicott City. The Culture Fest is a great place for individuals, bands, organizations and dance groups to participate in an afternoon of music as well as dance performances and educational displays. Interested parties are asked to contact **Laura Smit** at 410-715-3162 or email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2014-2015

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details, call 410-313-1675.

Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 4
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	February 5 and 19
West Friendship Park (Wounded Soldiers Hunt)	
Bow & Shotgun	February 11
Wincopin Trail	
Bow Hunting	February 12
SHARPSHOOTING	
Alpha Ridge Landfill and Park	March 9
Belmont Park	February 26 and March 5
Blandair Park	February 23
Daniel's Mill Overlook	February 9
Fulton South Park	February 2 & 17
Governor's Run Open Space	February 9
Gray Rock Farms Open Space	February 23
Hollifield Farm	February 9
Mt Hebron Open Space	February 9
River's Edge Open Space	March 2
Robinson Nature Center	March 2
Rockburn Branch Park	February 26 and March 5
Savage Park	February 2 & 17
Timbers at Troy Golf Course	February 26 and March 5

Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.

Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

HS students (Ages 13-19) and MS students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call 410-992-3726 or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center in The Barn, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets 2nd Friday of the month at The Other Barn 3:30-5pm. Call 410-992-3726 for more info

Art Attack: Creative after-school enrichment program at Columbia Art Center. Meets 1st & 2nd Mondays. Registration/Fees may apply. Call 410-992-3726.

Columbia Teen Center 410-992-3726

[Howard County Library](#)

Voices For Change: Email Meg Mekelburg for more info MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook, Stevens Forest and Swansfield. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call 410-730-6030.

Scholarships For Students!

As an educator, I know the value and importance of education. I also know that many families often struggle with financing the dream. Below is a sample of scholarships available. I encourage your students to apply early.

Towson University – Fischer Scholarship Program

Deadline: February 1, 2015; **Award:** Full cost of in-state tuition and fees. Renewable for up to 4 years.

Description: The Jess & Mildred Fisher College of Science & Math offers 2 scholarships for students committed to a major in a program housed in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. Complete application form (available [online](#)), personal statement, submit HS transcript, SAT/ACT scores and two letters of recommendation.

National Co-op Scholarship Program

Deadline: 2/15/15; **Award:** Varies

Description: Encourages minority and female students as well as students interested in STEM to apply for this merit co-op scholarship. Completed application and a 200 word essay. Application to a WACE Partner Institution: Clarkson Univ, Drexel Univ., Johnson & Wales Univ., Kettering Univ., Merrimack College, Rochester Institute of Tech., SUNY Oswego, Univ. of Cincinnati, Univ. of Mass. Lowell, Univ. of Toledo, Wentworth Institute of Tech. Complete application online. Early applications highly encouraged.

Specific focus: WACE Partner Institutions. Minority, female, STEM.

Contact: Marty Ford at marty_ford@uml.edu

GEBA Scholarship Foundation

Deadline: March 31, 2015; **Award:** \$2,600 up to \$100,000

Description: GEBA is a nonprofit association started in 1957 by NSA employees and now offers ways to give back. You must be a GEBA or GEMBA member, active since December 31, 2011 in order to sponsor yourself or an eligible family member defined as your spouse, your children, stepchildren, grandchildren or step-grandchildren.

Contact: Call 301-688-7912, 1-800-826-1126 or visit www.geba.com/scholarship

Teen Safety Scholarship PSA Contest

Deadline: April 1, 2015; **Award:** First Prize: \$2,000, 2nd Prize: \$1000, 3rd Prize: \$500

Description: Attorney Michael Abelson, The Abelson Law Firm in DC, feels strongly about the terrible consequences cyber bullying has had on the lives of our young students. HE is offering this scholarship to heighten awareness. Get creative and produce a 60-second or shorter video to urge students to put an end to cyber bullying. Open to HS seniors in DC, Maryland and Virginia who will be pursuing a college degree.

Buick Achievers Scholarship Program

Deadline: 5pm on February 27, 2015; **Award:** up to \$25,000/year renewable for up to 4 years and one additional year for those entering a qualified 5-yr engineering program

Description: For students who plan to major in a field of study that focuses on engineering, technology, design or business, with an interest in the automotive industry

Columbia (MD) Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Deadline: March 7, 2015; **Award:** \$500-\$1000

Description: For African American HS seniors in Howard County and attending a HC public school. Must plan to enter college in 2015; have a GPA of at least 2.5, have performed school/community service as well as demonstrated leadership abilities specific to the requirements of the scholarship award.

Contact: Call 410-730-9553 or email scholarship@colmddst.org

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Deadline: March 16, 2015; **Award:** \$1,000-\$2,000

Description: Reserved for African American applicants planning to attend two or four year colleges or universities. Must be a resident of Howard County or enrolled in a Howard County School



Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships

Deadline: Complete and file Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1st; **Award:** \$400-\$9,700 (Senate), \$200 minimum (Delegate)
Description: If your senator makes his/her own awards, you must call or write to your legislator for further instructions. Call Board of Supervisors of Howard County at 410-313-5820 if you are unsure of how to contact your state senator or state delegate.

"Aspiring Animation Professional" Scholarship Program

Deadline: June 1, 2015; Winners announced July 2015, scholarships paid August 2015

Description: Limited to HS seniors in the US pursuing an animation related degree program at an accredited post-secondary school or college.

"Aspiring Fashion Professional" Scholarship Program

Deadline: June 1, 2015; Winners announced July 2015 and scholarships paid August 2015; Award: \$1,000 for one year, non-renewable

Description: For HS seniors in the US who intend to pursue a fashion related field at an accredited post-secondary school or college. Have a demonstrable record of academic success and a passion and drive for a fashion related career. Selection based on academic performance combined with student's application essay.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

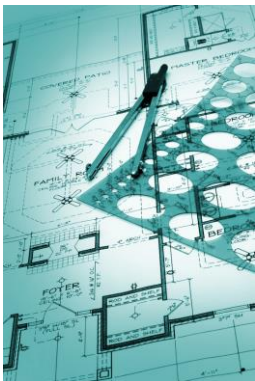
Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services. They provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!



HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3rd floor** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact **Deborah Gillen** at 410-313-3508 or DGillen@howardcountymd.gov.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment.
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available [online](#).
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

"Guaranteed Ride Home"

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!



The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are 9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A calendar of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax 410-313-3297.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
[District 2](#)
[Email Me](#)

3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"
~ **Mattie Stepanek**